



# FARM FACTS

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RELEASED: OCTOBER 19, 2001 VOL. 01 NO. 20

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## Record Yield for Corn, Hay, and Dark Tobacco

Tennessee producers are forecasting record breaking yields for their corn, hay, and dark-type tobacco crops during 2001, according to the October 1 Yield Survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service (TASS). Projected yields increased for almost all crops over the previous forecast with better than average yields also expected for soybeans, cotton, and burley tobacco. Debra Kenerson, State Statistician of TASS, noted that "With harvest nearing completion for some crops and well underway for others, expected yields are now beginning to come more into focus and are better than anticipated a month ago." She added, "If projected record and above average yields are realized, this will be a year that Tennessee farmers have not seen in a quite

a while." Results of the survey showed the following: **Cotton**, 666 pounds per acre, up 15 pounds from last month; **Corn**, 132 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from last month and a new state record; **Soybeans**, 35 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from last month; **Other Hay**, 2.50 tons per acre, up 0.4 tons from August and a new state record; and **Burley Tobacco**, 2,000 pounds per acre, the same as last month. Dark tobacco types, all forecast at new records, are: **Type 22**, 2,800 pounds per acre; **Type 23**, 3,200 pounds per acre; and **Type 35**, 2,500 pounds per acre.

## Cotton Yield Prospects Improve from Last Month

Cotton production is forecast at 840,000 bales, up 2 percent from last month and 18 percent from 2000. If realized, this will be the highest production since 1994. Yield is expected to average 666 pounds per acre, up 15 pounds from last month and 63 pounds above a year ago. As of the first week of October, virtually all of the state's cotton fields had open bolls and defoliation was 84 percent complete. Harvest was rapidly approaching the halfway mark, which is on pace with the 5-year average, but almost a week behind a year ago. Harvested area, at 605,000 acres, is up 7 percent from the previous year.

## Record Corn Yield Anticipated

Corn production is forecast at 75.2 million bushels, up 4 percent from last month and 12 percent above 2000. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 132 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from last month and 18 bushels more than a year ago. If achieved, this would be the highest yield on record, surpassing the previous record set in 1992 by 8 bushels. Although wet conditions slowed corn harvest the first week of September, mostly dry weather the remainder of the month allowed producers to make excellent progress and finish the month on pace with normal. Harvest of the estimated 570,000 acres for grain was 88 percent complete by the first week of October, slightly behind a year ago.

## Near Record Yield Expected for Soybean Crop

Soybean production is forecast at 36.8 million bushels, an increase of 6 percent over the previous month and 28 percent above 2000. Yield is forecast at 35 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from last month and 10 bushels above a year ago. This is the highest expected yield in 5 years, falling short of the state record set in 1994 by 1.5 bushels. September's weather provided excellent conditions for double cropped soybean development, as rainfall was timely and temperatures moderate. As of October 7, seventy-two percent of the soybean acreage had shed leaves and 17 percent was harvested, both on pace with the 5-year average. Area expected for harvest is estimated at 1.05 million acres, down 9 percent from 2000 and the smallest acreage since 1995.

## Tobacco Crop Holds Steady in Tennessee

Burley tobacco production is forecast at 68.0 million pounds, 4 percent below 2000 and the smallest production since 1989. Yield, at 2,000 pounds per acre, is unchanged from last month, but 80 pounds above a year ago. Production of Tennessee's dark tobacco types were down from the previous year, although record yields are forecast for each. Eastern Dark-Fired (22) and Western Dark-Fired (23) production is forecast at 17.1 and 1.60 million pounds, respectively, both down 20 percent from 2000. Types 22 and 23 yields are forecast at 2,800 and 3,200 pounds per acre, respectively. Dark-Air Cured (Type 35) production is forecast at 1.55 million pounds off the strength of an expected record yield of 2,500 pounds per acre. The majority of the burley and dark-type crops had been harvested by the first week of October.

## Hay Yield and Production Set a New State Record

Production of other hay, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at a new state record 5.13 million tons, up 19 percent from the August forecast and 11 percent above 2000. Yields are expected to average a record 2.50 tons per acre, 0.2 tons above the previous record set a year ago. Harvested area is estimated at 2.05 million acres, up 50,000 acres from last year. The state's hay fields and pastures greatly benefitted from timely rains and moderate temperatures during August and September. By the end of September, producers were wrapping up harvest with numerous reports of second and third cuttings.

### Crop Forecasts: Tennessee and United States, October 1, 2001, with Comparisons

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
			Indicated		Indicated		Indicated
		2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,500	9,500
Corn for grain	bu.	590	570	114	132	67,260	75,240
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	565	605	603	666	710	840
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	2,000	2,050	2.30	2.50	4,600	5,125
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,500	4,000
Soybeans	bu.	1,150	1,050	25.0	35.0	28,750	36,750
Tobacco, All	lb.	46.02	41.22	2,085	2,140	95,958	88,230
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	7.7	6.1	2,760	2,800	21,252	17,080
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	.64	.50	3,125	3,200	2,000	1,600
Burley (31)	lb.	37.0	34.0	1,920	2,000	71,040	68,000
One-sucker (35)	lb.	.68	.62	2,450	2,500	1,666	1,550
Winter Wheat	bu.	380	340	55.0	54.0	20,900	18,360
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	10,648,700	9,560,400
Corn for grain	bu.	72,732	69,191	137.1	136.3	9,968,358	9,429,543
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	13,053.0	14,138.0	632	681	17,188.3	20,072.0
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	36,777	40,083	1.95	2.01	71,836	80,675
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,599,800	2,537,300
Soybeans	bu.	72,408	74,137	38.1	39.2	2,757,810	2,907,042
Tobacco, All	lb.	472.43	451.24	2,229	2,299	1,052,998	1,037,569
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	11.80	9.40	2,896	2,800	34,167	26,320
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	4.44	3.60	3,360	3,286	14,920	11,830
Burley (31)	lb.	185.40	174.90	1,957	2,127	362,788	372,074
One-sucker (35)	lb.	3.78	3.42	2,901	2,664	10,966	9,110
Winter Wheat	bu.	35,072	31,295	44.7	43.5	1,566,023	1,361,479

<sup>1</sup> Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

**REMINDER:** All forecasts in this report are based on conditions about October 1 and do not reflect any possible weather affects since that time.

**Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned(Excluding Linters) Prior to October 1, Crop Years 1998-2001**

State	Running Bales Ginned			
	1998	1999	2000	2001
<b>All Cotton</b>				
AL	83,950	77,900	97,200	19,250
AZ	19,700	27,100	72,050	46,850
AR	237,400	355,700	295,200	245,800
CA <sup>1</sup>	---	---	22,550	16,250
FL <sup>1</sup>	3,550	5,000	5,800	---
GA	111,400	63,900	44,600	44,300
LA	178,450	277,700	413,050	150,800
MS	409,700	470,900	595,200	306,450
MO	46,150	135,700	108,350	93,400
NM <sup>1</sup>	---	---	2,500	1,100
NC <sup>1</sup>	77,450	---	4,100	3,350
OK <sup>1</sup>	12,700	2,250	13,350	---
SC	67,650	4,000	11,150	7,800
<b>Tennessee</b>	<b>128,800</b>	<b>152,800</b>	<b>220,200</b>	<b>135,050</b>
TX	665,900	1,134,550	1,380,450	933,850
VA <sup>1</sup>	10,200	0	0	---
US	2,056,400	2,689,850	3,285,750	2,006,600

<sup>1</sup> Not published to avoid disclosing individual gins.

**U.S. Dairy Products Prices Highlights:** Cheddar Cheese prices received for US 40 pound Blocks averaged \$1.71 per pound for the week ending October 6. The price per pound decreased 0.4 cents from the previous week. The price for US 500 pound Barrels adjusted to 38 percent moisture averaged \$1.67 per pound, down 1.0 cents from the previous week.

Butter prices received for 25 kilogram and 68 pound boxes meeting USDA Grade AA standards averaged \$1.73 per pound for the week ending October 6. The U.S. price per pound decreased 21.2 cents from the previous week. Nonfat Dry Milk prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade or USPH Grade A standards averaged 94.8 cents per pound for the week ending October 6. The U.S. price per pound decreased 0.1 cents from the previous week. Dry Whey prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade standards averaged 28.2 cents per pound for the week ending October 6. The U.S. price per pound decreased 0.2 cents from the previous week.

**Tennessee Milk Production:** July-September quarterly production of milk was 355 million pounds, down 10,000 pounds from the July-September period in 2001. The average number of milk cows in Tennessee during the July-September quarter was 93,000 head, 2,000 head less than the same period a year earlier.

**U.S. July-September Milk Production:** The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 40.6 billion pounds, 1.3 percent below the July-September period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the July-September quarter was 9.10 million head, 128,000 head less than the same period last year.

**Quarterly Milk Production: Tennessee and United States, July-September 2000-2001**

Item	Unit	Tennessee		United States	
		2000	2001	2000	2001
		1,000 Head		Million Pounds	
Milk cows on farms <sup>1</sup>	1,000	95	93	9,213	9,125
Milk production <sup>2</sup>	mil. lbs.	365	355	43,189	42,669

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows, but excludes heifers not yet fresh. <sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## ERS Agricultural Outlook

**U.S. Agricultural Exports Forecast to Rise in Fiscal 2002:** U.S. agricultural exports will increase in value for the third consecutive year in fiscal 2002, according to USDA projections. Exports are expected to rise to \$57 billion, 6.5 percent above fiscal 2001. Much of the gain is from exports of corn (up \$1.4 billion), wheat (up \$700 million), soybeans (up \$400 million), and cotton (up \$200 million), the major bulk commodities. Record exports of horticultural products, such as fruits and vegetables, also are projected. Higher prices of wheat, corn, and soybeans account for much of the gain in export value. However, prices of cotton have declined sharply since early 2001.

Substantial gains are forecast in bulk commodity export volume, which will rise 9 million tons to 119.3 million tons, the highest since fiscal year 1996. Corn volume is projected up 5.5 million tons, wheat volume up 2.9 million tons, and cotton volume up 400,000 tons. Forecast soybean volume is unchanged from the record level of 2001. U.S. agricultural imports also are expected to rise to \$39 billion, \$500 million above the downturn in 2001. But this gain is much more modest than increases in recent years, as the slowdown in U.S. economic growth continues to affect import growth in 2002. Most of the increase in imports is projected to be in horticultural products, such as malt beverages, nuts, and vegetables. Both volume and value are forecast to increase for these commodities, which tend to respond to growth in per capita U.S. incomes. Most U.S. horticultural imports come from Canada and Mexico.

*Source: USDA/ERS Agricultural Outlook, October 2001.*

**Food Price Inflation Should Moderate in 2002:** Consumers' demand for beef, dairy, products, and fresh fruits and vegetables contributed to a larger increase in 2001 food prices than forecast earlier this year. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all food is forecast up 3.2 percent in 2001, following smaller increases of 2.1 percent in 1999 and 2.3 percent in 2000. The food CPI is expected to moderate in 2002, rising 2.5 to 3.0 percent. For the all-items CPI in 2001, the inflation rate is forecast at 3 percent, the same as in 2000. The CPI, which measures changes in prices only, increased 2.5 percent for full-service meals and snacks (restaurants) in 2000, while the CPI for limited-service meals and snacks (fast-food establishments) increased 2.7 percent. In 2001, the increases have been higher, with restaurants increasing 3.1 percent and fast-food establishments increasing 2.9 percent. Restaurants and fast-food establishments competed vigorously with food-at-home sales and take-home meals offered by supermarkets. The three main sources of takeout food are fast-food establishments (33 percent), restaurants (23 percent), and supermarkets (20 percent).

Total sales of food purchased by consumers increased 7.4 percent in 2000, with food-at-home sales increasing 8.5 percent and food-away-from-home sales (restaurants and fast-food establishments) increasing 6.2 percent. These increases were the largest since 1990, indicating greater consumer purchases of luxury or convenience food items and willingness to pay higher retail prices for Choice beef, dairy products, and fresh fruits and vegetables. With an unsettled economy in 2001 and perhaps 2002, food sales are expected to return to the trend of 3.0 to 5.0 percent annual increases.

*Source: USDA/ERS Agricultural Outlook, October 2001.*